



OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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T H E S T O R Y A S I T ' S T O L D



CELEBRATING OJIBWE LANGUAGE

Ojibwe Book Launch Held in October

Authors, illustrators and transcribers in attendance during the book celebration took a moment to pose for a photo. Front row: Shirley Boyd, Carol Nickaboine, Bette Sam, Elfreda Sam. Middle row: Joe Nayquonabe Sr., William Premo, Jada Grapp. Back row: Jonathon Thunder, Anton Treuer, Steve Premo, Baabitaw Boyd, Samantha Peet.

The official book launch and signing was celebrated at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on October 7. "Today's a really exciting day. We are celebrating the publication of five new Ojibwe language books that were produced through the Aanjibimaadizing program here in Mille Lacs and published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press," said Anton Treuer, Bemidji State University Ojibwe Professor.



Anton Treuer

A project that encompassed years of hopes and dreams to revitalize and preserve the Ojibwe language came to fruition

with the publication of a total of five books that have been completed and presented solely in the Ojibwe language. The pages are filled with short stories as told by 14 of the most gifted storytellers in the country — our Mille Lacs Band Elders. These stories bring to life the creativity of our Elders through the tradition of storytelling as they speak of their experiences and memories while sharing their wisdom and childhood lessons. Each Elder was teamed up with linguists and Ojibwe transcribers who transcribed the stories to the pages to create the works entirely in Ojibwe as part of the language revitalization program. The original stories were magnificently illustrated by talented Ojibwe artists to visually bring the characters to life.

Steve Premo, one of the illustrators explained, "If we lose our language, we lose our culture. It has been given to us in

OJIBWE BOOKS see page 6



The NAFOA Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and former Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Tadd Johnson. Also pictured are Shena Matrious, Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe and Emily Johnson.

RECOGNITION OF A LIFETIME OF WORK

NAFOA Recognizes Dedication to Indian Country

Mille Lacs Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and former Band Solicitor General Tadd Johnson received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA). It was the first time in NAFOA's history that two people affiliated with the same tribe received this prestigious honor.

Johnson said, "This is a great honor, and the fact that the Chief Executive and I are receiving it on the same day makes it even more special".

As a NAFOA Board Member, Benjamin actually nominated Johnson for the award, commending his three decades of work as a policy-maker and educator who played a pivotal role in advancing the government-to-government relationship through his work. It came as a total surprise to Benjamin, however, when she learned the Board had secretly decided to bestow upon Benjamin with her own Lifetime Achievement award as well.

"We wanted this to be a surprise for Chief Executive Benjamin," said Board Member Varena Martin. "Melanie is one of our strongest leaders in Indian country and we wanted to acknowledge her many achievements on behalf of the people of Mille Lacs that have also benefited tribes nationwide," said Martin.

Right before the award luncheon began, Benjamin was on the stage because she was assigned the role of presenting the award to Tadd Johnson.

"I looked at the table by the podium and there were two awards sitting there, and when I saw that one of them had my

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT see page 3

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

By **MIKE LeGARDE** SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Historians credit President Ronald Reagan with the beginnings of Native American Heritage Month when he issued a proclamation designating the week of November 23-30, 1986 as "American Indian Week."

HERITAGE MONTH see page 2



Rev. Red Fox James PH D. D., also known as Red Fox Skiuhushu, was a Native American, presumed to be from the Blackfoot Tribe of Montana.

Red Fox James at the White House. Photo by Harris & Ewing, photographic Studio, 1915. (Wikipedia)

NAY AH SHING AND PINE GROVE SCHOOLS LEARN FIRE SAFETY — SEE PAGE 8

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo. We continue to wage a battle against the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. The sharp increase in COVID-19 cases for American Indians in Minnesota is very alarming. As elected officials, we take an oath of office to protect the general welfare of Mille Lacs Band members and so it is my duty to look at every possible option available to us to prevent the spread of the virus and save lives. I regularly review data from the Center for Disease Control Centers (CDC), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Minnesota State Department of Health, which provides a weekly report to tribal leaders about COVID-19 cases among our American Indian population in Minnesota. One policy that the federal government, the State of Minnesota, and other tribal governments in Minnesota have adopted, is a vaccine mandate for government employees. I am interested in the thoughts of Band members about this.

On October 12, I held a zoom meeting with Elders and informed them that I would be sending them a brief survey to gain their opinions about how we should approach this issue. I also held a meeting with our commissioners on October 15 to get their feedback about vaccine policies. Because our Elders are at highest risk from this deadly disease, my decision will largely be based on the data and what Elders want me to do. If you are an Elder, please look for a survey in your mailbox and be sure to fill it out and send back by November 15 to be eligible for a prize drawing.

During the first week in October, I attended a meeting of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), which advocates for tribal sovereignty, promotes responsible financial services, and provides better economic opportunity in Indian Country. This was an outstanding conference that focused on all financial aspects of the American Rescue Plan Act and historic funding levels that went out to tribal governments nationwide. I also attended the National Congress of Ameri-

can Indians (NCAI) which held a virtual conference, and was happy to nominate Chairman Mark Macarro of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians to the position of First Vice President. Congratulations to our Midwest Area Vice President, Rebecca

"ONE POLICY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, AND OTHER TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN MINNESOTA HAVE ADOPTED IS A VACCINE MANDATE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. I AM INTERESTED IN THE THOUGHTS OF BAND MEMBERS ABOUT THIS."

Crooks-Stratton of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

There is a lot happening at the federal level. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland held a government-to-government consultation on Restoration of Tribal Homelands on October 21 to gain the views of the tribes about the Interior Department's process for taking lands into trust status. Tribal lands that are held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Indian tribe are forever protected. During the last President's administration, applications from tribes to place land into trust status were stalled. In April, the Biden Administration announced that these processes could move forward again. I spoke at the meeting about our experience at Mille Lacs. I told them that we are called the "Non-Removables" for a reason, which is that our ancestors refused to

leave, despite great loss of land. Our efforts today to restore our reservation homelands by placing them into trust status are very important.

Speaker Shedon Boyd and I met with Senator Tina Smith on October 15 for an event held in her honor at a new restaurant called Owamni, which is owned by "The Sioux Chef," Sean Sherman. Owamni is the Dakota word for St. Anthony Falls. All of the items on his menu are made with indigenous ingredients and many appear in our Ojibwe language on the menu. Senator Smith is a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and she has been a strong supporter of the Mille Lacs Band and Indian country.

On October 22, the State Commissioner of Housing Jennifer Ho visited the reservation. The Band recently broke ground for a new housing complex in Onamia, Minnesota, called Red Willow Estates. These townhomes

are intended to help address the housing shortage in the area and provide more affordable housing options. We were able to pursue this project with support from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, so it was exciting to welcome Commissioner Ho to the reservation so she could see first-hand how we have leveraged our partnership with the state to build more homes and benefit the entire region.

This is just a snapshot of some of my activities in October. In between meetings, I always enjoy meeting and talking with Band members. If you have a concern that you would like to address or would like additional information about any of these topics, please contact me or Deputy Assistant Stephanie Boyd. Miigwech.

HERITAGE MONTH from page 1

But it was in 1990 when President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations under different versions of the name, including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month," have been issued each year since 1994.

The effort to recognize and honor Native Americans actually extends further back to the early 20th century.

One of the very first proponents of a day honoring Native Americans was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a member of the Seneca Nation, who was director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester NY. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans," which they did from 1912 to 1915.

Another man, Red Fox James (also known as Red Fox Skikusha) who claimed descendancy from the Blackfoot Nation (some historians assert that claim as undetermined) rode over 4,000 miles on horseback from state to state seeking approval for the creation of a day to honor Indians. It was on December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governors to the White House to designate the fourth Saturday in September as an "Indian holiday." However, there is no record of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first formal designation of an American Indian Day in the United States may have been in 1916 when the governor of New York declared the second Saturday in May as the state's

official observance. Curiously, several states during this era celebrated the fourth Friday in September as "American Indian Day." Illinois enacted such a day in 1919.

In the State of Minnesota, May is the month Indigenous Minnesotans prefer to celebrate their heritage and contributions as it distances the recognition from the erroneous and controversial first thanksgiving story, but this is a state-sponsored effort.

National Native American Heritage Month has evolved from its beginnings as a quest to have a day devoted to Native nations across Indian Country, to a week that celebrates Native life, to the proclamations by each president since 1990 formally stating that November is National Native American Heritage Month (notwithstanding President Donald Trump who from 2017-2019 did make a presidential proclamation that November would be a National Native American Heritage Month. He also proclaimed in November 2019 that it also be recognized as National American History and Founders Month.)

November 2021 will be proclaimed National Native American and Heritage Month (you may also see it referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month), a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.



BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is once again holding a photo contest for all Band members. We are looking for photos, taken by you, that represent the Mille Lacs Band people and places, culture, and tradition.

Please submit your photos by November 4, 2021.

Twelve winning photos will be featured in the Mille Lacs Band 2022 Calendar. Each winner will also receive \$200. So get out there and start shooting! But hurry, the contest ends November 4.

**Submit photos to: news@millelacsband.com
See complete list of rules at millelacsband.com**

DISTRICT I COMMUNITY EVENT CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

By RHONDA MITCHELL Mille Lacs Band Member

District I Representative Virgil Wind and his staff along with various departments from the Executive Branch including Tribal Police put together an end of summer celebration in September (After the October edition went to press). Over 350 guests and 40 volunteers enjoyed tons of games including a rock climbing wall, and summertime treats such as cotton candy, snow cones, Smoke Lodge BBQ and Janson's Sweet Corn.

Happy smiling community members enjoyed each other as a whole community.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT from page 1

name on it I was totally shocked," said Benjamin. "People had been coming up to me and congratulating me in the morning and I kept telling them, no I'm just the presenter, not the recipient," Benjamin said laughing.

In her remarks, Benjamin thanked NAFOA and gave all the credit for her award to Mille Lacs Band members.

"Our Band members, Elders and youth inspire me every day. They are the most wonderful people you would ever want to meet. Being the recipient of this award is a tremendous honor, but the biggest honor of my lifetime is that Band members have allowed me to work on their behalf all these years," said Benjamin.

Every year, the NAFOA Board of Directors selects and highlight some of the strongest Native American leaders who have brought about positive change for Indian Country. According to NAFOA: "Throughout the course of their careers, these leaders have done incredible work dedicating years advocating on behalf of their communities and Native communities nationwide."

The NAFOA announcement said, "Chief Executive Benjamin also serves on the board for numerous organizations across the country, including but not limited to the American Indian Law Resource Center, the Minnesota Board on Aging, Minne-

sota Housing Finance Agency, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations, the U.S. Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, the National Indian Gaming Association, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, and several others.

The program also provided Johnson's biography: "Tadd M. Johnson, Esq. is the University of Minnesota's first Senior Director of American Indian Tribal Nations Relations. In this role, he serves as the liaison between the U of M and the regional Tribal Nations. An enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Professor Johnson served as a tribal attorney for more than 30 years, and has also served as a tribal court judge, a tribal administrator, and is a frequent lecturer on American Indian history and Federal Indian Law. He spent five years with the U.S. House of Representatives, ultimately becoming staff director and counsel to the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs."

Several of Johnson's students currently serve in Chief Executive Benjamin's Cabinet including Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe and Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe, and several other Mille Lacs Band Members are also MTAG graduates.

NAFOA's Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at the Grand Hyatt Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Wednesday, September 22, 2021: Band Assembly occurred through conference call and zoom.

Confirmation hearings were completed with a summary and opening statement of the Nominee followed by questions and comments for the following Nominees: Byron Ninham, nominee for the Commissioner of Education, Kelly Miller, nominee for the Housing Board At-Large position; Percy Benjamin, nominee for the Housing Board At-Large position; Tony Pike, nominee for the Housing Board At-Large position. Tabled.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-70-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch and the Department of Athletic Regulation for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Administration Policy Board on September 10, 2021 and a memo from the Executive Director of the Department of Athletic Regulation dated September 17, 2021.

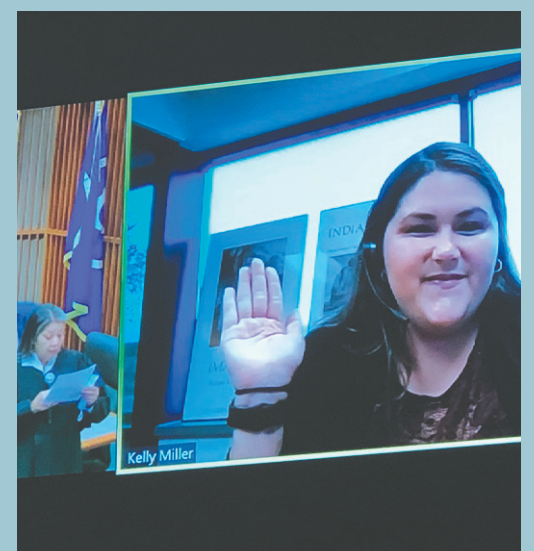
Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was introduced, read, and approved.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

a) Nomination: Per MLBS 12 Chapter 4 § 306 (a) (10) "The Chief Executive and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each select two (2) persons from the at Large area and the Band Assembly shall confirm two (2) of the four (4) for appointment to the Housing Board." The Chief Executive has nominated Carmen Weous and Percy Benjamin. The Speaker of the Assembly has nominated Kelly Miller and Tony Pike. Tabled 09/29/21. Nomination was taken from the table. A roll call vote was called for Carmen Weous and nomination passed. A roll call vote was called for Kelly Miller and nomination passed.

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Band Assembly meetings are open to the Mille Lacs Band community members. Band members can view the meetings in-person (masks required) or via live stream through the Band member portal on the Mille Lacs Band website. **Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.** Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.



Kelly Miller is sworn in by Sylvia Wise, Appellate Justice District III, on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 during the Band Assembly meeting as At Large Housing Board Member.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

County approves 2022 preliminary tax levy:

The Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners on September 29 approved a preliminary tax levy of \$22,339,589, which is an increase of 24.5% over 2020. *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

Oil is now flowing on Line 3. The fight to stop it isn't over:

Months of protests and a six-year legal battle culminated on Thursday, when the Canadian oil company Enbridge announced that work on its controversial new Line 3 pipeline was "substantially completed," and that oil would begin flowing across northern Minnesota on Friday, October 1. Tania Aubid, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, said in a statement that the company's actions showed "a blatant disregard for tribal nations." *Grist.Org*.

Minnesota hospitals hit lowest point of staffed bed availability during pandemic:

Not even the massive fall/winter surge in 2020 led to a capacity crisis like this. Minnesota is currently experiencing its worst point for staffed ICU bed availability than at any time during the pandemic so far. *Bring Me The News*

Moccasin maker Minnetonka has apologized for appropriating Native American culture:

The shoe company started in 1946 as one of many that sold Native-inspired moccasins to roadside gift shops. Its CEO apologized for profiting off Indigenous culture and outlined a plan for giving back. *NPR*

Walz puts National Guard on alert, expands emergency staffing pool to ease hospital strain:

With hospital capacity strained and COVID numbers across the state continuing to rise, Gov. Tim Walz Friday morning, October 15, announced new measures designed to support the state's health providers. Walz is launching free community rapid testing sites in various locations across the state. *Bring Me The News*

Gov. Walz makes it official: He's running for a second term :

Gov. Tim Walz surprised absolutely no one by announcing on October 19 he's running for re-election next year. Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan touted their record on responding to COVID-19, improving the economy, taking initial steps on police reform, investing in education and clean energy, and cutting taxes for the middle class. "Peggy and I ask Minnesotans to come together and make a goal line stand to fight COVID and protect the economy," *MPR*

Mille Lacs COVID cases exceed state average in September:

Kristine Klopp, Mille Lacs County community health services administrator, addressed the county board regarding COVID-19 cases during their work session on Oct. 19. Klopp stated that COVID-19 cases in Mille Lacs County are on the rise at the end of September and exceed that cases statewide. For the week of Sept. 26 through Oct. 2, cases in Mille Lacs County totaled 48, and statewide, the average was 36 cases. The highest age group affected by COVID is the 25-44-year-olds, with the second highest age group being the 45-64-year-olds. *Mille Lacs Messenger*

Great Halloween Blizzard of '91? Don't tell us again. OK, tell us.

This years marks the 30th anniversary of the infamous Halloween Blizzard. *MPR*

EDITING HISTORY TO REFLECT TRUTH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY MISSION

By ZOON-GII-GAHBOW, JAMIE EDWARDS

On October 8, 2021, via proclamation, Joe Biden became the first U.S. president to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. Stating, "Since time immemorial, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have built vibrant and diverse cultures — safeguarding land, language, spirit, knowledge, and tradition across the generations." The proclamation also admitted that "for generations, Federal policies systematically sought to assimilate and displace Native people and eradicate Native cultures."

In 1977, the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, sponsored by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, began to discuss replacing Columbus Day in the Americas with a celebration to be known as Indigenous People's Day.

South Dakota was the first state in the U.S. to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and used it to replace Columbus Day back in 1989. Nine additional states have since passed laws officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day (Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon and Vermont) and 10 additional states have done so via proclamation (Arizona, California, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin). And 130 local governments no longer celebrate Columbus Day and have officially replaced it with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Any continuance of the false narrative and/or myth of Christopher Columbus as discoverer of the "new world" is inaccurate, outdated and deeply disrespectful to Indigenous people.

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, the highest ranking Native American woman elected to executive office in U.S. history, said it best when asked a few years ago to share her thoughts regarding Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day. Her response was enlightening:

"We were taught in school that Columbus discovered America — with the rhyme, 'In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean

blue.' And that is where it stopped.

"No mention of what transpired after Columbus' three ships came upon a Caribbean island instead of the new trade route to India he had hoped to find. Columbus actions interrupted thousands of years of indigenous civilization, inciting genocide via disease, warfare and massacre."

Indigenous Peoples Day has multiple missions. While it aims to reeducate folks about the racist and destructive side of Columbus' legacy, it also raises a flag for the Native people who still live here.

At home, Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan have committed to "righting the wrongs" when it comes to real meaningful government-to-government interaction with tribal nations. Their team has created possibly the most attentive and progressive approach to state/tribal relations in the history of the state.

The Minnesota 2019 Indigenous Peoples' Day proclamation summed it up with the following powerful words:

"The Anishinaabe and Dakota Peoples who resided on

this land prior to the arrival of European settlers experienced a history of interactions with Europeans and Euro-American settlers defined by violence, broken promises, deprivation, and disease. This is a history that we must reconcile as we seek to build a brighter future for all Minnesotans while striving to maintain strong government-to-government relationships and strengthen tribal sovereignty.

"The state of Minnesota strives to eliminate systemic racism toward Indigenous Peoples... in order to promote appreciation, tolerance, reconciliation, understanding, friendship, and continued partnerships among all of its people and the Indigenous Peoples of this land."

There will always be more work to be done for Native people to achieve true reconciliation for the terrible wrongs of the past but at least one story is being edited and indigenous people are being uplifted in the process.

"FOR GENERATIONS, FEDERAL POLICY SYSTEMICALLY SOUGHT TO ASSIMILATE AND DISPLACE NATIVE PEOPLE AND ERADICATE NATIVE CULTURES."

— PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



Photo by Bradley Roache, Jr.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION - URBAN

Community members gather for a sunrise ceremony, honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day at lake Bde Maka Ska in south Minneapolis on October 11, 2021.



Red Willow Estates Ground Blessing Took Place on October 8. Pictured are Sara Treiber, Patricia Bittner, Dustin Goslin, Bradley Harrington, Corey Wind, Julius Aubid.

RED WILLOW ESTATES BLESSING

By MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) held an Ojibwe blessing at the future site of Red Willow Estates at 36200 Highway 169 in Onamia on October 8. Red Willow Estates is a 30-unit townhome community offering 22 two-bedroom, one-and one-half bath units, and 8 three-bedroom, one-and one-half bath units. All homes will have a one- or two-car attached garage along with energy efficient features and appliances.

MLCV has partnered with Artekta Architects from Fargo, North Dakota and Hy-Tec Construction from Brainerd, Minnesota to design and build this project. The project will include many amenities including a connection to the Soo Line recreation trail, Ojibwe-inspired landscaping themes, a raised-bed community garden area, a basketball court, a playground, and an outdoor community gathering area with grills and a fire pit, benches, picnic tables and a covered shelter. The team will be using innovative construction techniques, which include manufacturing pieces of the buildings through Dynamic Homes in Detroit Lakes. Dynamic Homes has been producing homes for over 50 years and is owned by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The project is set to begin sitework this fall and complete construction by Winter 2022.

"Our team is excited to welcome 30 deserving families to their new homes in the heart of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy," says Julius Aubid, property manager for Circle Sage Property

Management, who will be managing Red Willow Estates.

As a tribally-owned organization, MLCV has continuously advocated for investment in the communities it serves. Affordable housing has been a key priority in the area as over 60% of the workforce commutes up to 50 miles daily, resulting in approximately 72% of the jobs in the area filled by outside residents. MLCV believes in the power of shared well-being and is proud to contribute to the generational sustainability of rural Minnesota.

"MLCV has invested heavily in family-inspired amenities to make Red Willow Estates stand out as the model for rural Minnesota," shares Dustin Goslin, vice president for business and economic development for MLCV. "We make our world a better place by trying to improve the well-being of every person and community we engage with. We believe business can be a force of good and keep that philosophy at the center of our work."

Red Willow Estates is the second affordable housing project developed by MLCV. In 2018, the company completed a 28-unit townhome community called Lady Luck Estates in Hinckley. Like Lady Luck Estates, Red Willow Estates will be managed by Circle Sage Property Management. All units at both properties are open to anyone who meets income eligibility on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more information, please visit <https://mlcv.com> or <https://circlesage.com/#projects>

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Facebook and all of its apps go down

simultaneously: Facebook's internal communications platform, Workplace, was also taken out, leaving most employees unable to do their jobs. Facebook and its family of apps, including Instagram and WhatsApp, went down at the same time on Monday, taking out a vital communications platform used by more than three billion people around the world and adding heat to a company already under intense scrutiny. *New York Times*

Tribes, Advocates Work to Fix a 30-year-old

Loophole in Federal Law: More than 116,000 Native American ancestors are in limbo—their remains not yet laid to rest, but instead kept in storage at museums and institutions across the country. *Native News Online*

DOI Appoints Two Tribal Citizens to Indian

Affairs Roles: In keeping with the status quo of a diverse department, the U.S. Department of the Interior on Wednesday announced the appointment of two new tribal citizens. Joaquin Gallegos of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Pueblo of Santa Ana in New Mexico and Wizipan Little Elk of the Sicangu Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe) in South Dakota will both serve under Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community) in their new roles. *Native News Online*

U.S. Senate confirms first Native American

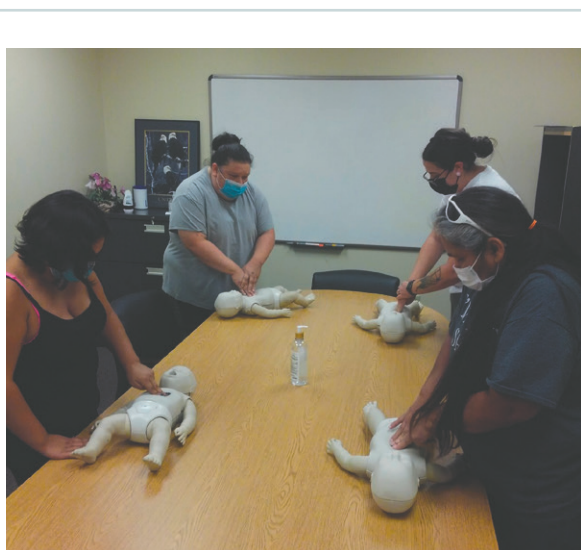
federal judge in WA history: The U.S. Senate has voted 55-44 to confirm the lifetime appointment of Lauren J. King for the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on Tuesday, Oct. 5. A citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation located in Oklahoma, King is the fourth Native American federal judge in the country and the first Native American federal judge in Washington state history. *The News Tribune, Washington*

Navajo president backs bill to protect Native

American voting rights: WASHINGTON — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez told a Senate panel Oct. 20 that special protections are needed to reverse the "very disrespectful" treatment of Native Americans who face extraordinary challenges in the voting process. Nez joined others urging a Senate Judiciary subcommittee to support the Native American Voting Rights Act, which would set minimum federal requirements for voting on tribal lands, including early voting, mail-in balloting, ballot collecting and ID standards. "It's not about Democrat or Republican," Nez said. "It's about doing the right thing." This includes addressing the many voting barriers that are unique to Native Americans, such as the lack of voting locations on reservations, which makes it difficult for them to vote, Nez said. *Navajo-hop Observer*.

First Lady Biden Hears Success of Project

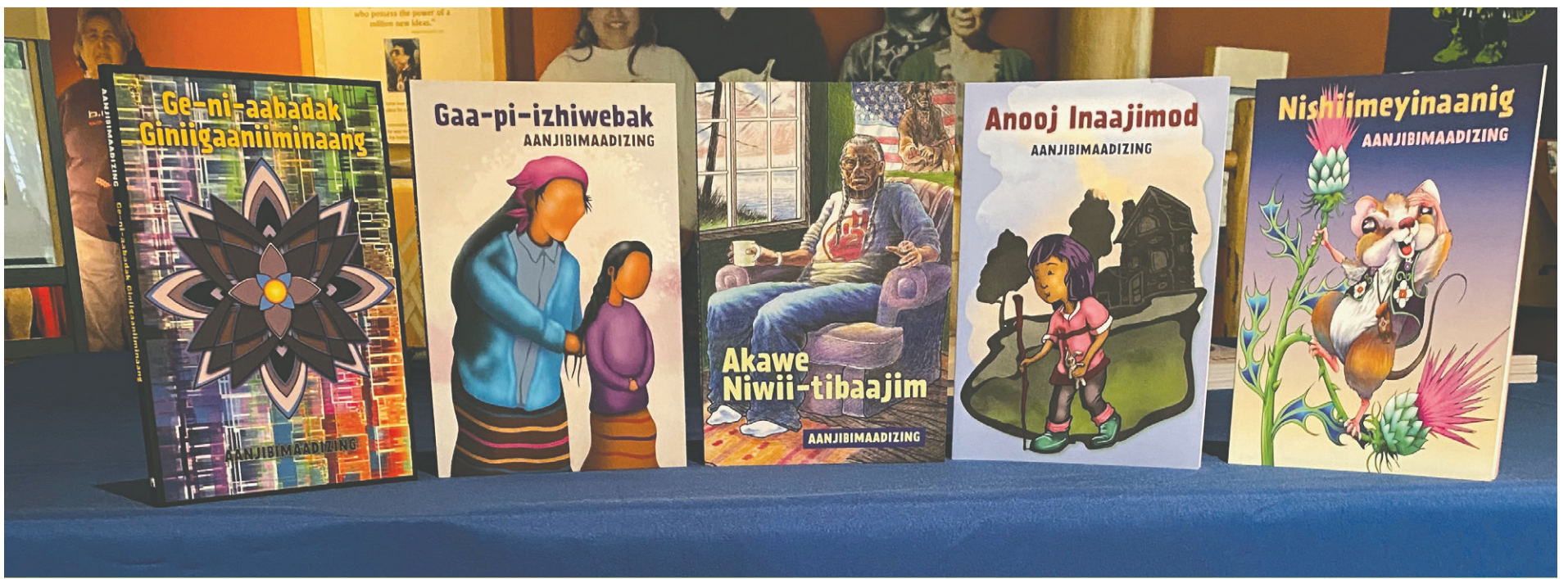
AWARE, Which Provides Hope for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe: First Lady Jill Biden made a visit to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Ziibiwing Center on the Isabella Indian Reservation on Sunday afternoon. It was her second trip to an Indian reservation since becoming first lady in January. Also part of the first lady's entourage was Assistant Secretary of the Interior — Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, who is the former leader of the Bay Mills Indian Community. *Native News Online*



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.





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Elfreda Sam and Baabiitaw Boyd

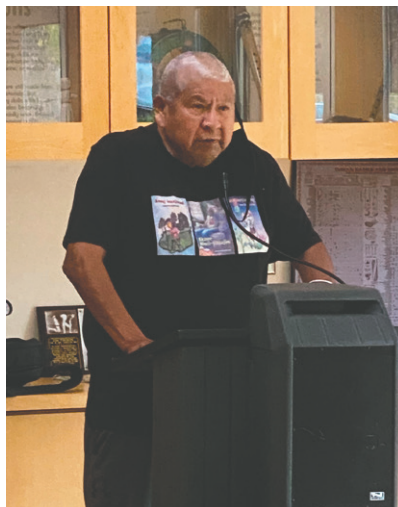
order to sustain us as a people." Steve went on to remember his late grandmother, Lucy Clark. Near the end of her life he said, "She was sad because she couldn't hear the song in the language."

Baabiitaw Boyd was instrumental in the project and an Aanjibi-

maadizing Project Transcriber.

"One of the reasons why the book launch and the book celebration is a big deal, and the books in general, is because we're making monolingual Ojibwe language resources and we are making the most of the time we have with Native fluent speakers to create resources that we can put right into the classroom," Baabiitaw said. "These books will be tools to teach our children for hundreds of years to come."

At the beginning of the project, 25 Mille Lacs Band Elders were identified as first speakers. Sixteen agreed to join the project. Sadly, we lost two of the Elders who passed on due



Joe Nayquonabe Sr.

to complications with COVID-19.

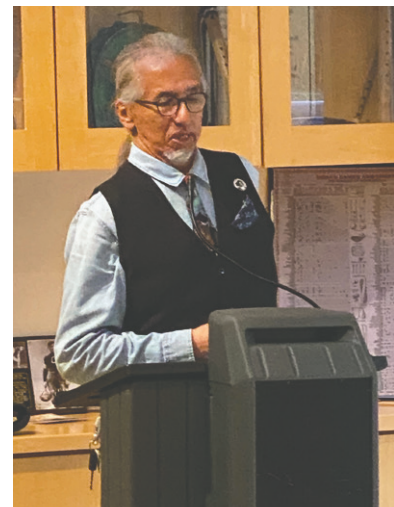
Mille Lacs Band Elder Joe Nayquonabe Sr. said he grew up with Ojibwe as the only language spoken in his household until he was sent away to boarding school where the only language the American Indian children were allowed to speak

was English. Many children were punished and even beaten for speaking Ojibwe.

Holding back tears Joe Sr. said, "I used to say, when you speak Ojibwe, you are Ojibwe. The happiest times of my life has been making these books."

"Our language is deeply important to us. It's at the center of our identity," added Treuer.

Aanjibimaadizing, which means "Changing Lives," is a program of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Through the Aanjibimaadizing Project, sixteen first speakers teamed with linguists, teachers, and Ojibwe language experts to create this



Steve Premo

new literature for Ojibwe language learners. Conceived and presented only in Ojibwe, the stories reflect a rare authenticity as they transmit cultural values, increase vocabulary, and reinforce identity.

Elders on the project: William Premo Jr., Lee Stapples, Carol Nickaboine, Elfreda Sam, James Mitchell, Bette Sam, David Sam Sr, Susan Shingobe, Lorena Gahbow, Ralph Pewash, Joe Nayquonabe Sr. Leonard Moose, Brenda Moose, Shirley Boyd, Francis Davis,

Transcribers: Mille Lacs Band Community Members Amanda Nickaboine, Baabiitaw Boyd, John P Benjamin, Bradley Harrington, Jada Monano, and Samantha Peet.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

LANGUAGE IS A BRICK WALL

By Jim Clark, Mille Lacs Band Elder

This article by the late Jim Clark was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to preserve his teachings and bring them to the next generation.

To me, language is a great big brick wall that you can't get over. If you can't understand what other people are saying, you can't really know what they're doing.

I've said before how important language is to keeping our Ojibwe traditions alive. Our prayers cannot be translated. Our teachings cannot be translated. Speaking our language is more than a way of communicating — it's a way of life, of keeping our identity.

We were given our language by the Creator to use, as other people were given their languages to use. We believe that we have to carry on our traditions in the Ojibwe language.

Some people say that we are losing our language. But to me, we are giving it away, because some people who learned English want to use English more than Ojibwe. So, the people down in the cities, away from the reservation, are more for learning English than the Anishinaabe way.

Fortunately, now the Mille Lacs Band and other bands are teaching the Ojibwe language in their schools.

It's hard to teach the language with so much English around and hard to learn it. I'm

proud of the people who are learning or relearning Ojibwe. It's not easy; any language is complicated (English certainly was complicated for me as a boy).

We still use our Indian names, too. Mine is Nawigiizis, which means the center of the moon. All of my kids have Indian names. There was a guy on the corner the other day and I asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Owanee Gahbow" just as plain as can be. But when you ask some people, "What is your Indian name?" they know they have one, but they don't know how to say it.

I go back to where I grew up, and I ask people there if anybody is still using this word or that word, and they don't know. We used to have names for all the different places, and I go back and ask them in Ojibwe about this place or that place, and nobody knows. We run into that language barrier again, because some of the older people are gone now. They were the ones who always insisted that we use the language. My grandmother would say, "You have to talk to the Creator in that language; that's why he gave it to you."

And that brick wall: non-Indians want us to explain some things that we do, and we can't. It just won't work, because there are things we can say in Ojibwe that you can't translate into English, or things in English that you can't translate into Ojibwe.

Of course, I can't teach Ojibwe through a short newspaper column. You can't hear what it sounds like, which is crucial to learning. But maybe I have given you a little idea of why it is so special.

WARRIOR DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2021

HONORING MILLE LACS BAND VETERANS

By VIVIAN LaMOORE INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

American Indians serve in the United States armed forces in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group, and have served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years.

It may not make sense to some why so many American Indians would serve a government that suppressed their cultures and took away their land. But it may perhaps mean so much more. A warrior's traditional role is more than just fighting in battles. Warriors protect and care for their community and would do anything to see their people survive. Even if that means laying down their lives. Perhaps it was best said by Jeffrey Begay Nine, Navajo veteran who said, "We serve this country because it is our land. We have a sacred purpose to protect this place."

For many Band members, military service is an extension of their warrior traditions. Others have served for the benefits of college tuition reimbursement, a change in lifestyle, and others serve for basic love of home and country.

Band member Tony Pike served in the U.S. Army from 1990 to 2011 serving 22-and-a-half years providing countless state active duty missions, over seas training, and combat tours. "My reason was pretty simple. I lived on the south side of Minneapolis. Gangs, drugs, jail, and even death were everywhere. I needed to change my lifestyle. Plus, that was before I received per cap so the extra money was great. Also, it turned out to be a great opportunity to travel, not only the United States, but other countries as well, like Panama, Norway, Germany, Greenland, Kuwait and Iraq.

Band member Curt Kalk served in the U.S. Marines from 1981 to 1985. His rank was a Corporal, and squad leader for an infinity unit. "I mostly joined because there was not much to do around here. Jobs were scarce and the grant for the college I applied for didn't respond until I was in boot camp. I enjoyed



being in the service very much."

These are just two of the many Mille Lacs Band member warrior veterans. For whatever their personal reasons for joining the military, there have been hundreds of Mille Lacs Band members serving the U.S. military who are now honored warrior veterans. One hallway in the Government Center has a mural painted by Band member Steve Premo and is dedicated to honor each and every Band member who has the distinction of being a veteran.

A beautiful stone monument was donated to the Mille Lacs Band by the Mille Lacs Reservation AMVETS Post 53 to honor veterans. This monument gives all who pass by the opportunity to reflect on the service of the men and women who have served in the military. Names are engraved in the stone for eternity. The engraved names are flanked by plaques dedicated to Band member veterans of World Wars I and II respectfully dedicated in 1948 and In honor of the men and women from Mille Lacs Indian Reservation who faithfully served their country respectfully dedicated in 1998."

The next time you enter the Government Center, if you have some time, please stop by the monument outside and visit the mural on the wall across from the media center. Take a moment to reflect and honor the great warriors of the Mille Lacs Band.

To all Mille Lacs Band warrior veterans, chi miigwech for your service.

HHS/HEALTH/ELDER BRIEFS

NA MEETING HAVE A NEW DATE

NA Meetings are now Wednesdays at 6 PM..

ZOOMING TOWARDS RECOVERY

Zooming Towards Recovery Zoom meeting is still nightly at 8 PM.

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

SNAP — safe Native American passenger training — is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 to 5 p.m. Contact Kristina Abear at 320-532-7814 or kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to sign up.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

The Women's Healing Group meets on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. Both groups meet at the old District I Community Center across from Grand Casino Mille Lacs. All are welcome!

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

As part of the Band's Community Risk Reduction or CRR efforts, First Aid and CPR classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month in the Family Services training room at the Health and Human Services building in District I. Family Services staff and foster parents have priority, after which it is open to other departments and community members. There is a \$10 fee for certification cards if participants would like them. Cards are free for Family Services staff and foster parents. Contact Kristina Abear at 320-532-7814 or kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to sign up.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Emergency Management Coordinator (Center) is making a difference by sharing his personal story of the life of his daughter, Nada, as a missing and murdered Indigenous women. Monte gave a presentation at St. Cloud State University on Thursday, October 7, 2021 to an audience of over 100 people, including several State Representatives. Pictured are (left) Rep. Heather Keeler, Rep. Dan Wolgomont, President Robbyn Wacker, Monte Fronk, Rep. Tama Theis, Rep. Paul Novotny. Also present (not pictured) was Patrick Kelliher, Outreach Director for Senator Klobuchar.



NADA'S STORY

Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Emergency Management Coordinator, presenting the tragic story of Nada Fronk, his daughter who was a runaway teen, trafficked as a teenage girl, and murdered at the age of 24. The presentation is an effort to bring continuing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Children and Men.

EDUCATION: NAY AH SHING AND PINE GROVE

ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY DAY

By VIVIAN LaMOORE OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR



October has been designated as National Fire Prevention Month — a time when public service departments across America join forces to spread the word about fire safety. In a team effort between the Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management division, Nay Ah Shing Schools and local safety divisions such as fire departments, emergency medical services, and electric and gas companies, this year's safety event was a success in each school, according to Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator.

Students in the schools were given a classroom presentation prior to going outside to have a closeup view of equipment and demonstrations from each entity.

This year's theme also pays particular attention to smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and alert devices.

Fire departments and ambulance services have always been a big hit with the students. Utility companies have also been a part of the event for years. A new addition this year was the inclusion of local gas companies such as Center Point Energy. "The main reason for each of these presentations, is so the students can identify each of these entities as 'helpers' and people the students can trust and feel safe with when there is an emergency," Monte said. "Kids often associate these companies with bad things. We want the students to feel safe when they see a utility company and to not be afraid to call them when there is an emergency."

The gas company presentation includes what to do when they smell gas in their home and what gas smells like. The energy cooperatives provide a presentation in electrical safety, and of course, a very cool demonstration of a line truck and all of the tools.

See more photos on page 9.

FUN PHOTOS

TOP: Smokey Bear is always a favorite visitor for students.

MIDDLE LEFT: Nay Ah Shing students toured a Mille Lacs Health System ambulance and learned about first aid.

CENTER: Students toured the Garrison Fire Department fire truck and witnessed the fire fighter bunker gear.

RIGHT: Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland Fire Crew demonstrates how they put out fires in the outdoors. Students had an opportunity to run the fire hose.

BOTTOM LEFT: Pine Grove students toured the Danbury Fire Department fire truck and (right) learned about bunker gear.



NAVIGATING HIGHER EDUCATION

College Success

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM Mille Lacs**
Community Member and Dean of Students, Equity and Inclusion at Central Lakes College

As a college administrator I am inspired daily by our students. I am committed to helping shape a college experience, where barriers are reduced and supports are in front of our students. Years ago as a single mom, first generation college student, and just few years into recovery, I remember "not knowing," being afraid of failure and the new path in front of me, called higher education. I wanted something different for my child, but I didn't know how to start or how to get there. Others provided advice, which to this day has helped me.

As college students seeking a degree, your goal will not only affirm and strengthen your confidence and identity, but will also pave the way for our children and grandchildren to see themselves as learners, providers, and helpers to build a healthier community. We have all been inspired by someone and we can offer that same inspiration to others. Being a college student is hard work and it is rewarding.

As we approach mid-terms, followed by finals week, many students feel additional stress, sometimes feel overwhelmed. Some are concerned about the day-to-day juggling, whether it be dealing with the significant losses our community has been experiencing, juggling day-care or children's schooling, working part or fulltime, managing your own health, caring for other family members, for some, focusing on sobriety and recovery and the list can go on. Below is a list of college success tips, that we hope will get you through mid-terms, finals, and help you achieve your graduation, and then employment goals.

You can do this, we believe in you.

Keep in mind:

- Our traditional knowledge and teachings can serve as our foundation in all that we do
- We all carry with us the strength and resiliency of our ancestors
- College is an opportunity to 'start over'
- Letting your brilliance shine is ok!

Self-care and more

- It's ok to 'not know'. For most of us, navigating college resources is a new experience. It is important to get the answers, which is up to us.
- Set a goal and career plan. Be easy on yourself as this may change as you explore the new opportunities in front of you
- Rest, walk, eat healthy, drink lots of water
- If you are living on campus, visit family as able, via facetime if possible. Can your family send you a care package with some traditional foods or other items?
- Attend community cultural activities, ceremonies, within your college community, smudge
- Embrace your identity. Incorporate your perspectives into your class assignments
- Participate in a student club, activities like yoga, mental health events
- During mid-terms and finals, practice all of the above

and remember to breathe, talk to others and reach out

- Practice time management, find a study space that works for you
- Accessing college resources and knowing its ok to ask for help
- Connect with your college advisor early and often! Know class drop and add deadlines.
- Meet with financial aid staff early, there are many scholarships and work study opportunities
- Register for the right classes. Find success early. Take a class or two that will help you build confidence your first semester of college. Take Ojibwe or cultural classes to meet other students and feel a sense of belonging.
- Build relationships: connect with a diversity center, Native Resource Center or Native staff. Find a mentor.
- Meta 5 Program serving men and women, starting over in life
- TRIO Programs: serves first generation, low-income and students with disability
- Accessibility Services: provides accommodations for students with a disability, including mental health issues
- Adult Basic Education
- Sober support- recovery supports, mental health supports (telepsychiatry, health centers on campus)
- LGBTQ supports and ally's
- Ask for help, utilize tutors, writing tutors, alumni, education division staff at MLB, peer to peer supports

Self-advocacy

- Surround yourself with others who want to set and reach their goals
- Get to know your faculty and Dean of Students
- Know how to read your Syllabus and what the expectations are
- Check your email everyday
- Communicate clearly and respectfully, even when frustrated and document any concerns
- Come to class prepared, be engaged, use your voice-verbally or in writing
- Put your phone down, don't let yourself be distracted
- Write down the questions you want to ask your instructor and ask their advice on how you can be more successful in their class, go to the instructor's office during their office hours.
- Practice positivity and gratitude for the opportunity in front of you, know you are strong, and capable.
- Be bold and be brave. Become a campus leader. Keep your eye on your goal.



FIRE SAFETY DAY AT NAY AH SHING AND PINE GROVE



Staff members from Mille Lacs Early Education are training in CPR as part of the Community Risk Reduction Program.

EVERY CHILD NEEDS SOMEONE... WILL IT BE YOU?

There is an immediate need for foster families in order to ensure that our children remain immersed in their community, culture, and family. Children and their families depend on us to provide support while they are working toward family reunification.

If you are interested in helping a child and family in need and want to learn more about the fostering process, call the Family Services Department at 320-532-4163, ext. 1743. For more information about MLBO Family Services, visit millelacsband.com/services/family-services.

MEET YOUR COMMISSIONERS

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

TIM JACKSON, COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is it like to go from working on the gaming floor at the casino to the government side of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe stepping into the role of Commissioner of Community Development? Imagine driving a semi with a 53-foot fully loaded trailer carrying bits and pieces of your family's precious cargo through rush hour traffic in the metro area on I-94. Your adrenaline kicks in while you are switching lanes and shifting gears at high speeds all while navigating the tunnels and bridges in a blinding blizzard. When this happens you need to trust your navigation device and run on instinct. That is what it is like to travel the highway as the new Commissioner of Community Development. Tim Jackson has been in that role for a few short but fast few months and knows he has a long road ahead of him..

"It's been crazy, and very exciting coming to work every day. You never know what to expect," Jackson said. "Knowing how many lives we touch every day is amazing."

The Community Development Department is the trailer full of precious cargo such as Housing, New Construction, Rentals, Public Works, Maintenance, and more. While Jackson may be in the driver's seat, he has learned to trust his navigation system built on the expertise of the 80-90 employees and various directors and department heads who have been doing the work like a well-oiled machine — some of whom have been in the department nearly 30 years.

"They do their jobs very well," Jackson said. "It is amazing the level of responsibilities there are. Just think: Gina Anderson told me when she first started working here 30 years ago, there were 30 houses we were responsible for. Now we have over 570 including those for the Elders and handicapped."

Patience and understanding is key to many aspects of Community Development. "Everything takes time. One of the biggest areas of time is spent on housing issues. It is more than just a house here or there. It is a family under that roof. We are here to help that family and every family with dignity and respect."

Jackson said one goal is to build a Housing Department Warehouse. And in this warehouse will be a space for training homeowners and renters to perform regular maintenance tasks such as cleaning gutters, changing filters, basic plumbing, and more. "We want people to take pride in their homes. Learning new skills to take care of the smaller issues is huge and they should be proud of that," Jackson said. "We want people to wake up in their homes every day and be happy where they are at."

Jackson grew up in East Lake and worked for a local farmer during his younger years. He has also worked on many construction jobs. His career with the Mille Lacs Band began at Grand Casino Hinckley where he worked for roughly 30 years. He started as a blackjack dealer and worked his way up the ladder at the casino. "The gaming floor was a different kind of exciting. Your days started out a little on the slower side and really kicked in in the evenings and especially on weekends when it really got busy. Here, you just get going fast and you go all day like that."

Jumping in getting his hands dirty and doing the hard work is nothing new to Jackson. He also has a small hobby farm at home where he has lived for 20 years taking care of pigs, turkeys, peacocks, cats and dogs. He doesn't do it alone, however. The hobby farm is a family deal with his wife and kids.

Hard work was taught to him by his grandpa Archie Moose, who worked on a farm and taught Jackson most of what he knows about farming now. "Grandpa also taught me to snare rabbits and pick birch bark for medicines and to build canoes. He taught me how to make baskets and I would sell them to make money to buy my first dirt bike," Jackson reminisced.

His grandpa passed away in 1983 when Jackson was 12 years old. "That's when I chose to be seated as Head Drum Keeper in my Grandfathers Seat. The same drum that he asked



Tim Jackson begins his four year term as Commissioner of Community Development.

Sam & Ada Yankee to sit beside Archie & Madeline Moose. My goal is to continue cultural traditions until my final days."

After his grandpa passed, his grandma took care of him, "And I took care of her." As they were caring for each other, he learned to make syrup and process rice. He was the middle child and only boy between four sisters. "We all worked together to get jobs done, hauling wood, doing dishes, we all did a little bit of everything," Jackson said. "We always listened to our Grandpa and Grandma, Mom and Aunts and they taught us to speak up for what is right."

Culture is important to him and passing that on to his kids has been a mainstay in his own family.

He learned at a young age that working together to help everybody translates to a better life for not only his family, but for the community. "We need to realize that everybody's dream is different. We try to accommodate as much as we can and working together for one goal, we can accomplish so much more."

Trusting the navigation system and knowledge base of the staff in Community Development along with his hard work ethic and strong instinct sums up Jackson's leadership goals of, "working together to create a safe and prosperous community. It's a long road, but we will get there together."

NICOLE ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

As Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Nicole Anderson is no stranger to facing challenges head-on. Anderson began her career in HHS in the middle of a term beginning February 14, 2019. Roughly one year later, the entire world was experiencing unknown territory with the COVID-19 virus entering the United States. As the pandemic began to explode across the country, it crept into Minnesota and closer to the Mille Lacs Reservation. Even more challenging was the virus created a world where details were key to making decisions, but the combination to unlock the information as it was exploding was as puzzling to the world-wide experts as it was for the Mille Lacs Band leadership. "COVID was right there in our face and everything changed quickly," Anderson said. "We all worked together to make decisions — sometimes very tough and difficult decisions — all with the safety of the community at the forefront."

Teamwork and collaboration is vital to decision making for Commissioner Anderson who noted HHS now has a dedicated upper management team who she can count on to bring the right information forward so that all members can have input in the process. "My first two years was really hard. A lot of re-organization of HHS and it changed dramatically. It took time for everyone to get comfortable with that change," she said. "I have had to have very critical conversations with some of my peers and they were my friends. Something that is really important to me, however, is I am always going to be straight forward and honest and I am going to make decisions



Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services is re-appointed for a second term.

with honesty and integrity. That, and I am consistent."

Maintaining consistency in the rapidly evolving realm of the pandemic was like running in several directions all at the same time in complete darkness while listening to and comprehending information from Indian Health Services, The Center for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health, the Federal Drug Administration and a host of others, all while maintaining a sense of calmness and certainty in an uncertain world was the challenge. At the very forefront was the need to make tough decisions, to keep the community informed, reduce rumors, and help the community and staff feel safe.

"I think it taught me that I could be a black and white thinker and when in leadership you have to be able to pivot on a moment's notice," Anderson said. "It is my job to serve the team in order for us to be successful to lead the Band membership. We all have boots on the ground and do the frontline work. I know that I can pick up my phone at any time and call my team members and things are going to be taken care of immediately. I am very proud of our team. We are all human and we all have to do our best every day and treat everybody with kindness and understanding while communicating effectively."

When asked who has been the most influential in her life she said, "I speak very candidly about my mother's substance abuse and that taught me what I didn't want to be for my children and for myself. People who have impacted my life over the years, are people who have integrity and go against the grain. People who do the right things for the right reasons regardless of what the crowd thinks. I always stood up to the bullies and still do that to this day. Not one person alone has taught me, but these are traits that I admire from people who have passed through my life."

Re-appointed as Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson is up for the challenge to continue the work that she began in 2019. She is committed to leading the HHS staff and serving the Band membership for the next four years with kindness, fairness, integrity and honesty.

Now, there is a better understanding of the pandemic. Anderson said she and the staff at HHS will continue to fight the good fight for the health and safety of the community. In as much as the virus has mutated and variants emerge, the way individuals carry on with daily lives has changed as well. "The way we think about the people we work with, and our families, those things have changed. All of that reflects on my leadership style. There are things I am very strong in but there are areas where I know I need growth in my leadership. I study it in my free time. I take employee issues very seriously if and if there is an issue, we work through it. My thing is I know if the work environment is better, it is better for our Band members. People need to be happy at work because if they are happy, they work better and that is better for the Band."

MLCV BREAKS GROUND ON SOLAR ARRAY AT GROUNDS OF GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY

REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT



A GREAT STEP FORWARD — CELEBRATING SOLAR

A 3-megawatt solar array is coming soon near the Grand National Golf Club on the grounds of Grand Casino Hinckley. On site for the celebratory ground breaking were Ryan O'Brien, Bradley Kalk, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Aarik Robertson, Joe Nayquonabe, Ezra Sam. The project is a collaboration with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, East Central Energy, NextEra and Kinect Energy.

By MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

A unique partnership with a goal of equitable member access to renewable energy was solidified when a 3-megawatt solar array broke ground on October 14 near the Grand National Golf Club on the grounds of Grand Casino Hinckley.

Joe Nayquonabe, Chief Executive Officer of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures shared that this has been a project years in the making. He thanked East Central Energy and NextEra for their creative collaboration with MLCV, as well as the expertise of the consultants of this project, Kinect Energy.

Nayquonabe also shared his appreciation to Mille Lacs Band elected officials – specifically Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin who was in attendance, as well as Representative Wally St. John who inspired this project. “We will reduce the carbon footprint of our facilities and operations and create a future with cleaner facilities for generations to come,” said Nayquonabe. “This is a great step forward.”

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin shared that the Mille Lacs Band has a history of caring deeply about communities and environment and this project highlights a very long-term benefit to the community and the region. In closing, Chief Executive Benjamin shared one of her favorite quotes by Paul Wellstone, “We all do better when we all do better.”

A subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources will develop, operate, and own the solar array; East Central Energy (ECE)

“WE WILL REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF OUR FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS AND CREATE A FUTURE WITH CLEANER FACILITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. THIS IS A GREAT STEP FORWARD.”

— JOE NAYQUONABE, CEO OF MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

will purchase the array’s output and sell to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) for a defined period. MLCV is leasing the land to NextEra for free over the next 30 years. The project is expected to be complete by summer 2022.

The transaction will keep Grand Casino Hinckley on their load control program, while allowing ECE to stay within the terms of its contract with its power supplier, Great River Energy.

The project will impact the

Mille Lacs Band and Hinckley communities by helping reduce the region’s carbon footprint. For MLCV, investing in renewable

energy resources as a tribally owned entity aligns with its corporate values. The solar array will offset the equivalent of taking nearly 900 cars off the road for a year.

The solar array will be sited in a way that captures the maximum amount of daily sunlight. Single-axis panels will tilt and track the sun as it moves through the sky from east to west, which is important because it will generate output late in the day, which is typically when energy demand peaks; it’s also the most expensive time of day to purchase energy from the market.

GUEST SAFETY MEANS HOUSE RULES... AND A LOT OF SANITIZING.

Check out all we're doing at grandcasinomn.com.



Let your story begin.

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SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

By NAZHIK Mille Lacs Band Member



As Anishinaabe, we should be making decisions knowing that no matter how seemingly small or large the decision, it will have great impacts. Like seeds, a decision can start off small and random but it can grow.

Our ancestors knew this. They knew that the decisions they made

would have lasting consequences. If they were to decide to skip mending the lodge, it will have a leak. If they decided to harvest rice, they would be able to feed the family. Much simpler times but decisions nonetheless.

Think of our decisions today. What impacts do they have? What small decision grew into something large? What decision grew into something that was less desirable?

I wish I could tell you that all decisions are conscious. Our subconscious plays a large part. It holds our beliefs, our views of self and world, as well as the internal biases of our actions. What we expect to happen. Why does confidence play a large role? How do we know when someone is nervous? Our subconscious is our filter of how we perceive the world and everything in it, especially ourselves.

Why do we tell addicts to "Just decide to be better?" judgmentalists will say, "if they made better decisions...."

It is more than that. They are living their belief of themselves and the decisions they make are self destructive as well as fulfilling those beliefs.

Imagine if we all believed we can speak Ojibwemowin? We were told for hundreds of years that we were primitive. Yet our ancestors' society was so complex it not only existed in the physical world but also in the spirit world.

What if we all believed in the Manidoog? Our subconscious would then send through the filter of a greater compassion that oversees our existence and magic happens. The Asemaa you offer today will extend far into the future, how far we may never know. From prophecies to guidance, our spirits can show us. I do believe that the barrier is our subconscious. The filter the manidoog gave us to have endearing trust is also the same filter that has us perpetuate the trauma. I believe the Manidoog gave us that to keep us connected and safe.

It's the decisions we make everyday that have the most impact. I imagine it echoing in the spirit world due to the lack of physical time. Spiritual time is like a blink of an eye to us but eternity to the spirits. That's why decisions are so crucial. An addict has to make the decision to live a different life every minute in the beginning, then every hour. Eventually leading to the day by day decision making that some rely upon.

The decision to share a bit of knowledge, say Aaniin or giga-waabamin will echo if used constantly. They say that a decision needs to be made consistently over 21 times to create a new synapse in the brain. Could that be a new core belief? A new worldly perspective? I think the Manidoog will tell us should we attempt it.

Share our language, whatever you know. Share a teaching, whatever you know. A song, a viewpoint. Let's make a decision to share what we know so it can echo into the spirit world and bridge to our generations yet to come. Our future depends on it.

Miigwech



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing. They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Booshke giin. Anishinaabemog/Ojibwemog! Akawe, daga ikidon, "Aaniin!" gemaa "Boozhoo!" Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? Nimino-ayaa. Giin dash? Mii dash gagwejimad: Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? _____ indizhinikaaz. Indoojibwem bangii. Ninitaa-ojibwem. Gigikinoo'amawaa abinoojiinh giishpin netaa-ojibwemoyan. Biboon noongom. Gisinaa. Minwendaagwad. Boodawen! Minwaajimon! Aadizooken! Minawaanikwad. Gakina awiya daga izhaadaa agwajjiing noongom!

(It is your decision. You all speak the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe language! First, please say, "Hello!" or "Hi!" How are you? I am well. And you? And then you ask him or her: What is your name? _____ is my name. I speak Ojibwe a little bit. I'm skillful at speaking Ojibwe. Teach a child if you are a really skilled Ojibwe speaker. It is winter now. It is cold. It is fun. Build a fire! Tell a good story! Tell a sacred story! It is exciting. Everyone please let's all go outside now!

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waabooz—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Aaniin—as in seen
Mooz—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Ingw—as in tin
Niizho—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

VAI's = Verbs, Animate, Intransitive. Root is S/he...

Baapi.—S/he laughs.
Mawi.—S/he cries.

VII = Verbs, Inanimate, Intransitive. Root—It is...
Noodin.—It is windy.
Awan.—It is foggy.

VTI = Ve r b s, Transitive, Inanimate (Object) Root command—"to it"
Miijin!—Eat it! Minikwen!—Drink it!
Mikan!—Find it! Waabandan!—See it!

VTA = Verbs, Transitive, Animate (Being) Root is "to Him/Her"
Ojibwemotaw!—Speak Ojibwe to him/her!
Waabam!—See h/h! Miiizh!—Give it to h/h!

Niizh—2 Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Biboong indizhaa zaaga'iganing. Indakwa'waa. (VAI)

B. Biboong, nindagindaas neniibowa waakaa'iganing. (VAI)

C. Biboon. Gisinaa. Gooniwan. Niiskaadad, geget! (VII)

D. Niizho-giizhigad. Aabitaa-dibikad. (VII)

E. Inga-miiin okosimaan ningo-diba'iganek. (VTI)

F. Indayaan onow niizh okosimaan. (VTI)

G. Ingii-waabamaa nimaamaa. (VTA)

H. Gaawiin ingii-waabamaasin nindede. (VTA)

K O H M A
N I A O B S
I N G A I N B
M E A K B W G I
A Y I I O I A T B
A M K N O A T W Z O
M I O K N W J A N B O
A I K I G M E E A J W N
A J S E A N I N D E D E
D I A N E N I I B O W A
G N N I N D I Z H A A Z

Niswi—3

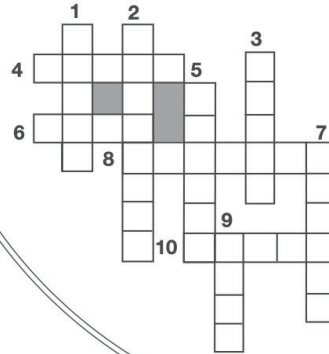
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. first
2. Let's all go!
3. or
5. Say it!
7. friend
9. It is foggy.

Across:

4. Give it to him/her!
6. please
8. someone
10. more



Online Resources
ojibwe.lib.umn.edu
ojibwe.net
glifwc.org
glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Ginwaa Ikidowinan—Long words

Miini-baashkiminisigani-biitoosijigani-baadigwingwezhigani-bakwezhigan (ag)—Blueberry Pie (s)
Blueberry cooked to sauce in pie-face covered bread.

Mishiimini-baashkiminisigani-biitoosijigani-bakwezhigan—Apple Pie.
Apple cooked to sauce in pie and bread.
Future tenses: wii- will or want to, da- or ga- definite will.

Past tense: gii- did
And—dash or idash, ashi in counting

Question markers as 2nd word—na, ina

1. Waabang megwayaak ni _____ waabamaa waawaashkeshi.
2. In _____-waabamaag niizh migiziwag zaaga'iganing.
3. Gigii-mikawaa _____ moozweshkan iwidi? (yes/no?)
4. Inashke iwidi! Waagosh waabooz _____ bimibatoowag. (and)
5. In _____-andokawe'aa megwayaak noongom. Waaboozikaaw iwidi. (will definitely)

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When it is winter, I go to the lake. I spearfish through the ice. (VAI) B. When it is winter, I read a lot at the house. (VAI) C. It is winter. It is cold. It is snowy. It is bad weather, for sure! (VII) D. It is Tuesday. It is midnight. (VII) E. I shall eat a squash when it is one o'clock. (VTI) F. I have these two squashes. (VTI) G. I saw my mother (VTA). H. I did not see my Father. (VTA negation)

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Nitam 2. Izaadaa 3. Gemaa 5. Ikidon 7. Niiiji 9. Awan Across: 4. Miizh 6. Daga 8. Awiya 10. Nawaj
Niiwin—4 1. Tomorrow in the woods, I want to see a deer. (wii-) 2. I saw two eagles at the lake. (gii-) 3. Did you find the moose antlers over there? (ina) 4. Look over there! That fox and rabbit are running! (dash) 5. I will definitely look for his tracks in the woods today. There are a lot of rabbits over there. (ga-)

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. The grammar patterns may help a beginner voice inanimate and animate nouns and verbs correctly, as well as create questions and negate statements. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 lynn@glifwc.org.

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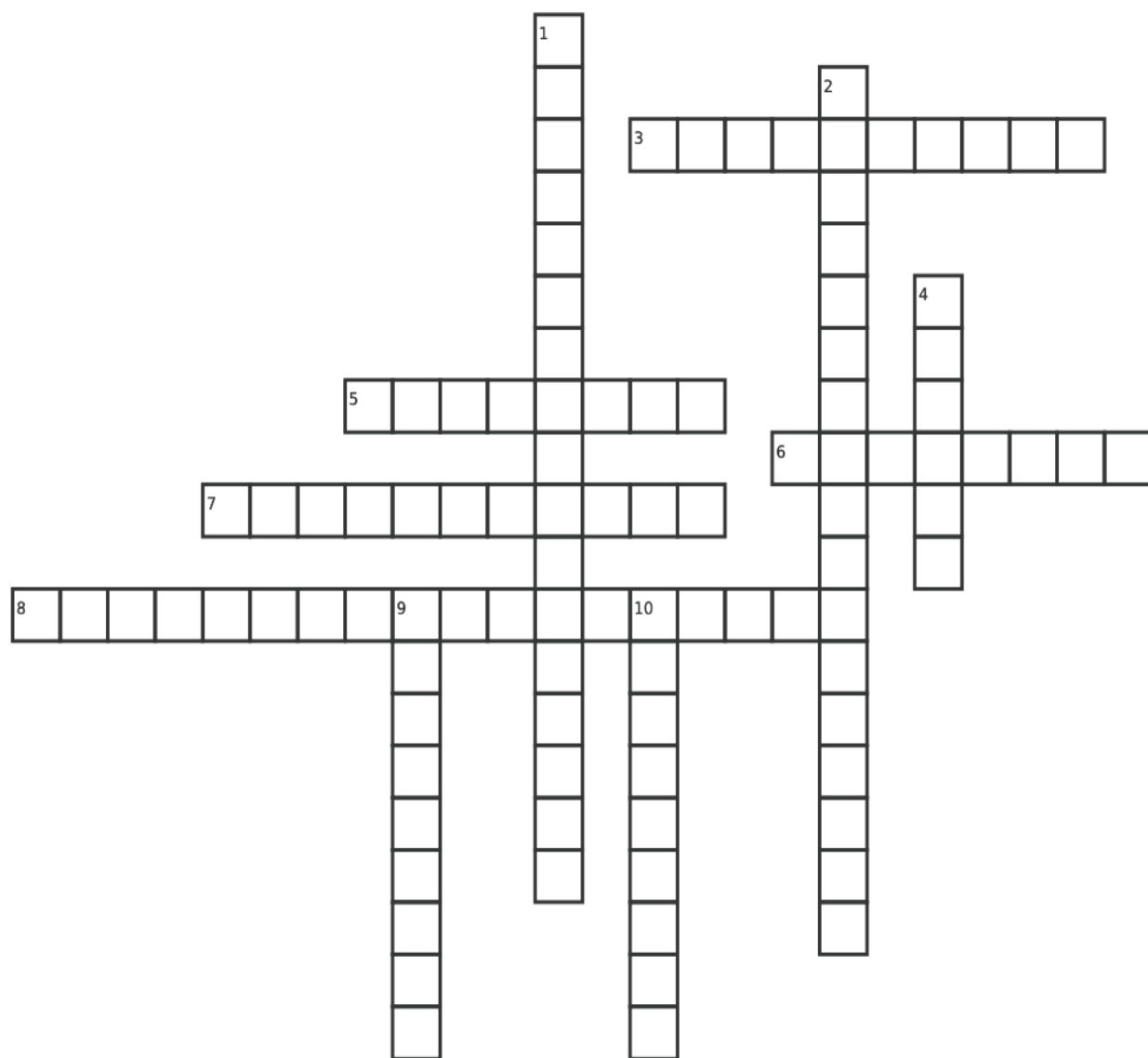
Originally published in *Mazina'igan* WINTER 2018. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.



OJIBWE BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION

Mille Lacs Band members Bette Sam, Baabitaw Boyd and Shirley Boyd with Anton Treuer celebrate the new Ojibwe books.

AAZHAWAAKWASING IKIDOWINAN GASHKADINO-GIIZIS 2021



Down:

1. Gii-_____ ina? (Did you wash dishes?)
2. Wash your hands!
4. Get in the car/boat!
9. _____ ina? (Have you woke?)
10. Wakeup!

Across

3. Put on your shoes!
5. _____ gidazhigan! (Take off your socks!)
6. _____ gi-babiinzikawaagan! (Wear your coat!)
7. Mii azhigwa ji-_____! (It's time for you to wakeup!)
8. Wash the dishes!

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By **Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member**

As we go about and apply the language, the kids will hear you. Do you remember words from when you were a kid? We all do. We now need to demonstrate language for our current youth so they can have that experience as well.

Kids are still connected to the spirit world. They need that extra help to decipher this world. To help them grow to the Anishinaabe they are meant to be. Use our language with them. They will be glad you did.

Goshkoz in! = Wakeup!

(Go shko zin)

Gigoshkoz ina? = Have you woke?

(Gih go shkoz ina)

Giziibiigininjiin! = Wash your hands!

(Gih zee bee gih nin jeen)

Babiichiin! = Put on your shoes!

(Bub bii cheen)

Giziibiiginaaganen! = Wash the dishes!

(Gih zee bee gih nah gun nayn)

Boozin! = Get in the car/boat!

(Boo zin)

Biizikan gi-babiinzikawaagan! = Wear your coat!

(Bee zik kun gih bub beenz zik kaw wah gun)

Giizikan gidazhigan = Take off your socks!

(Gee zik kun gih duzh zhig gun)

Gigii-kiziibiiginaagane ina? = Did you wash dishes?

(Gi gee kiz zee bee ginah gun nay in nuh)

Mii azhigwa ji-goshkoziyan! = It's time for you to wake up!

(Mee uzg zhig gwuh jih go shko zih yun)

Utilizing Ojibwemowin in front of kids will help them know it.

Miigwech.

You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.



SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS

Mille Lacs Band members Bette Sam, Baabitaw Boyd and Shirley Boyd are busy signing autographs during the Ojibwe Book Release Celebration held at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Over 100 guests attended the celebration.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

OCTOBER WAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE Mary Sam, Mille Lacs Community Member**

In the woods, in the city, away from the city, domestic violence is real. Not all, but some of us grew up in family systems where domestic violence occurred emotionally, physically or both, and/or recently or historically.

Many factors continue to feed the cycle of domestic abuse, including the lack of services in rural Minnesota, denial, fear, structural racism, institutional barriers, and prohibiting allowing a voice to speak the truth. Yet, small circles, gatherings, and healing initiatives at home here in Mille Lacs are working to break the silence, raise awareness, intervene, and support those impacted by domestic violence. Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program, focuses on education, advocacy, victim services, safe harbor and shelter. The Mille Lacs Band Men and Women's Healing Circles and groups work to empower healthy connections and provide peer-to-peer space to come forward to heal. Helping survivors and perpetrators understand the dynamics that maintain violence is essential to break the cycle.

Silence cannot be an option — for any of us. Breaking the silence takes courage, as there are so many layers that contribute to the cycles of violence. The late Betty Kegg, [Mary Sam's mother] often said "We cannot help heal our communities if we haven't done the healing work ourselves." Healing ourselves is really hard work. Healing our communities is even harder.

How do we create systems of prevention, support, and intervention without re-victimizing? Native communities know too well the added harm that can be done when prevention and intervention programs reflect patriarchal systems, are not culturally grounded or which proselytize, thereby reinforcing the oppression and violence of the boarding school era. Well-intended helpers can compound the damage, when they

"WE CANNOT HELP HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES IF WE HAVEN'T DONE THE HEALING WORK OURSELVES."

— THE LATE BETTY KEGG



TACO 'BOUT IT THURSDAY

The Family Violence and Prevention team has resources available to help. Taco 'Bout it Thursday's were held in each District throughout the month of November. Band members were offered free food, give-aways and free information.

lack cultural fluency skills. Worse yet, some individuals offering help may themselves be unsafe, including those in positions with authority.

Denial is huge; it is real when it comes to addressing these issues. Fear is real. In conversations with professionals who work closely with those impacted there has been a common theme: victims oftentimes blame themselves for their situations and many times do not even realize they are being abused or even stolen. In addition, many protective systems are in place for the abusers, looking the other way, societal tolerance of violence, including the tolerance of the murders of indigenous relatives. History matters in how we talk about accountability or speaking our truths-when it affects someone we know or love.

Historical trauma provides the foundation and invisibility, which allows the crisis of domestic violence and sexual assault to continue. It is difficult for Native women in particular to trust the systems and the helpers, and the organizations, which often make women feel responsible, blamed, and shamed. Some

take the abuse because of fear of police, fear of those in power, and many who have looked away; Native women don't believe them or decide others simply don't care. There isn't much hope that things can get better and the cycle continues. In a recent article published in *The Women's Press*, co-authored by Band members Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Mikayla Schaaf, and Mary Sam, Mikayla said, "Many of us become desensitized to trauma. I am committed to being the grandmother who breaks the cycles so many of us are familiar with."

Men and women are needed to begin this healing work. It is important that men be a part of the truth telling because they are essential to this healing work. They are, and have been, victimized as well. We must begin to break the cycles that are breaking our communities.

Collaboration with area agencies is key to helping us break the silence. Commissioner Anderson notes: "I have learned courage and collaboration are key to addressing this tough subject. This is hard work, painful work, long overdue, but necessary."

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION

Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program offers several programs for help and guidance.

Program Administrator Kristen Allord 320-532-7793

Safe Harbor: 320-532-7793

Elder Abuse Program: 320-532-7793

Elder Abuse Advocate, Mike Davis: 320-630-7666

Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, Kala Roberts: 320-630-2691

Sexual Assault Advocate, Petra Mauricio: 320-362-4995

Victims of Crime Coordinator, Melissa Sanvig: 320-364-3568

Victims of Crime Advocate, Tracey Sundvall: 320-362-1416

Women's Shelter – 320-495-3514 and the 24/7 crisis line 866-867-4006 – Ashley Hanson, Shelter Manager

Community Advocate, Nannette DesJarlait – 320-362-0642

Community Advocate, Winifred Davis - 320-362-4685

Community Advocate, Rachel Nelson – TBD



FAMILY VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION

If you or someone you know needs help, reach out. The Family Violence and Prevention Program can help. Call 320-432-7793.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

A VIEW FROM THE LATE DAVID 'AMIK' SAM

BIO: Aaanin, my name is Mary Sam, Maajitaaziibiikwe. My late husband, David 'Amik' Sam and I dedicated our recovery and healing work to our community and across the region. Forty plus years of sobriety for each of us, years and hard work in therapy, living to be and do our best to support others and to create change, to end the cycle of addiction and abuse was a shared goal. I share David's words from an article we co-wrote last spring published in the Minnesota Women's Press:

What we saw is what we learned, what we learned, is how we behaved; resulting in addiction, womanizing, for some, domestic and sexual violence. It seemed normal to many men in my generation. There were no people to talk to about this, as most of us grew up in similar circumstances. This is about silence, fear, isolation, shame, loyalty, and power, regardless of the cost. The fear and shame keeps many of us stuck in cycles, which many are still trying to 'undo'.

Looking back, Minnesota history and other patriarchal and oppressive systems, created and allowed for these things to occur, which have laid the groundwork for our communities to look away; many feeling afraid, sometimes ashamed, scared and protective of a perpetrator they love. Cultural norms of 'non-interference' is also a factor. I know now, and didn't know then, the systems, community rules and norms paved the way for women to be stolen, missing, abused and even killed. The

" VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN PUT THERE BY THE ACTIONS AND INACTIONS OF WE AS A COMMUNITY, REGARDLESS OF GENDER WE MUST CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOR TO CHANGE THIS."

— THE LATE DAVID SAM

healing work that some of us, not many of us, have done is painful, long overdue and urgent to address.

Five years ago, I lost my granddaughter, through murder, by her partner. Witnessing the systems, the local leaders who remain silent, communities who want to look away because it is simply too painful to name. Fear of accountability, refusing to say the words battery, murder, sexual violence, or trafficking, can no longer be accepted as normal. It is not normal.

The grief, anger, trauma, isolation coming from a region that ignores this trauma is painfully overwhelming and unacceptable. Few men tell their stories. It is time. It is part of our healing to create a safe community for our women, our men and our children.

As Native people, we have learned to stay invisible. Women grew up in these systems too, learning the rules to stay silent and now are being used, abused, trafficked by Native men, and white and black men at an even higher rate. We see this here in Central Minnesota, in our homes, at gas stations and hotels, resorts, in fish houses.

Coming from a background like many 'old' men of my generation, having battered in my much younger years, it makes me feel sad to have been a part of these problems. Falling back on the notion that I didn't know any better is no longer acceptable. Victims of violence have been put there by the actions and inaction of we as a community, regardless of gender we must change our behavior to change this.

Miigwech-Thank you!" — David 'Amik' Sam. April 2021

GRA UPDATE

PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION

The holidays are approaching quickly and can be a joyous time of year, but for those fighting gambling addiction, it may just mean added temptation. Stressors could include: strain on budget, family "poker" parties, dangerous gifts (scratch-offs), alcohol and extra time off from work causing feelings of boredom and loneliness. If you are struggling with gambling addiction, try avoiding these triggers. However, if you are finding the holiday season difficult or just need someone to talk to about gambling temptations, please call the Problem Gambling Hotline: 1-800-333-4673 (HOPE).

If you feel a strong urge to gamble beyond your means and have thoughts of regret about gambling, you can pursue a self-exclusion with the GRA to give yourself some time away from the casinos for as little as six (6) months at a time. Please text or call our office (320-532-8135) or visit the Grand Casino MN website (Resources tab) to obtain a copy of a self-exclusion form to help streamline your request for exclusion.

*Insert GRA Mission Statement & department description. The new website changed our address to <https://www.millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises.

More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>.

You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

MILLE LACS BAND PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for photos that represent the Mille Lacs Band people, places, culture and tradition. Send your photo in today to news@millelacsband.com.

Twelve winning photos will be featured in the 2022 Mille Lacs Band calendar. Each winning entry will receive \$200! Get your entry in today! See millelacsband.com for complete rules. Contest Ends November 4.

IITH ANNUAL PET CLINIC IN DISTRICT I

November 13 and 14 at the Old District I Community Center on Virgo Road. All surgery spots have been filled for this event. There is now a waiting list.

Wellness check-ups are available Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a first-come-first-served basis. Wellness check-ups are also available Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a first-come-first-served basis..

THE DISTRICT I AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER IS CURRENTLY OPEN TO BAND MEMBERS

Check out the new facility located at 18458 Minobimaadizi Loop Onamia, Minn. 56359. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Rick Anderson at 320-532-7733 for more information..

MILLE LACS BAND ELDERS

Jacket orders should be complete and in by mid-November. Elder Services will contact you when they are available. Miigwech!

WARRIOR DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2021

All Mille Lacs Band Government offices and buildings will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021 in honor of Warrior Day.

TURKEY AND PIE GIVEAWAY

The following is the schedule of the turkey and pie distributions. All locations are first come first served. Get there early so you don't miss out:

District 1: Wednesday, November 17 from 1 - 5 p.m. at GCML outside the southside of the Events Center.

District 3: Wednesday, November 17 from 1 - 3 p.m. at Grand Northern Inn in Hinckley.

District 2: Thursday, November 18 from 10 - 11 a.m. at the Minisinaakwaang in East Lake.

District 2A: Thursday, November 18 from 1 - 2 p.m. at the Chiminising Center in Isle.

Urban Area: Friday, November 19 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Urban Office in Minneapolis.

MIIGWECH DAY

All Mille Lacs Band Government offices and buildings will be closed at noon on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 and remain closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Miigwech day. Offices will re-open Monday, November 29..

INAAJIMOWIN ONLINE

Stay up to date with news and information. Check out Inaajimowin.com.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Carl Robert "Charlie" Boyd

Carl Robert "Charlie" Boyd, 50 of Fairbanks, Alaska formerly of McGregor died Sunday, September 19, 2021 at his home. He was born March 25, 1971 in Denver, CO. He enjoyed reading, movies, beading, playing cribbage, making blankets, fishing, and cooking – especially with his niece and nephew.



He was preceded in death by his parents: Alvin Boyd, Ada Merrill, and Harry Lewis, Jr.; Grandparents: Orletta Sharlow, George Sharlow I, Harry Lewis, Jr., and Ruth Lewis, and other special relatives.

Charlie is survived by his sister: Michale Lewis-Pagh; Nephew: Mikeal Pagh, Niece: Ashley Pagh, Great-Nephew: Everett Pagh; Aunts & Uncles: Carmen Lone, Orretta Sharlow, Mike Merrill, George Sharlow, II; And many other special relatives and friends.

Visitation was at Dusk on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the East Lake Ceremonial Building in East Lake – McGregor. Tribal Rites were at 10:00am – Sunday, September 26, 2021 at the East Lake Ceremonial Building. Skip Churchill will lead the Tribal Rites. Burial will be in the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with McGregor Funeral Home in McGregor. To leave a message of condolence please go to www.srtfuneral.com

Kenneth Lloyd "Waabishki Waagosh" Wilkie

Kenneth Lloyd "Waabishki Waagosh" Wilkie, 57, of McGregor, passed away Sunday, October 10, 2021 at his home. He was born February 24, 1964 in Belcourt, North Dakota to Emery and Nora (Delorme) Wilkie. Kenneth attended McGregor High School and went on to Vocational School in Staples to become a Heavy Equipment Operator. Kenneth worked for Gordon Construction and Precision Pipeline. He was a member of International Union of Operating Engineers Local #49 of Minneapolis. Kenneth was an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast and loved to fish and hunt. He also embraced his Native American heritage.



Kenneth is preceded in death by his parents; sister-in-law, Lisa Wilkie; brother-in-law, Steve Freeman; great

Jon Sargent

Ogimaa-binesii, Jon Sargent, 37-year-old resident of Onamia, MN passed away on October 8, 2021. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 AM on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at the District 1 Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment was in the Faith Lutheran Cemetery in Isle, MN. Visitation will begin at 7 PM on Monday, October 11, 2021, at the District 1 Community Center. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Jon Levi Sargent was born on September 22, 1984, in Onamia, Minnesota to Anthony and Judy (Gahbow) Sargent. He enjoyed the outdoors especially fishing and playing sports. Jon was an avid MN Vikings fan and loved being with friends and family.

He is survived by his father, Anthony Sargent; significant other, Jamie Cowle; sister, Jennifer Gahbow; brothers, Donald Sargent, and Owen Sargent; many loving aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

Jon was preceded in death by his mother, Judy (Gahbow) Sargent; grandparents, Leonard and Ramona Sam, and Janet Gahbow.

nephew, Bennett Burke.

Kenneth is survived by his children, Jacob Gourneau of Mandan, North Dakota and Hope Marie Atkins of Prior Lake; siblings, Gary Wilkie (Sharon Lake) of Palisade, Gerald Wilkie of Palisade and Dale (Annette) Wilkie of Aitkin; 5 sisters, Darlene Freeman (Bill Sweeney) of Lombard, Illinois, Bernice (Duane) Weston of Palisade, Deb (Glen) Weston of Hill City, Gaylene (Rodney) Spolarich of Palisade and Geraldine Wilkie of Minneapolis; 5 grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation was at Dusk on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at the East Lake Community Center, East Lake-McGregor. Tribal Rites will begin Thursday, October 14 at 10 AM at the East Lake Community Center. Interment was in Lakeview Cemetery, Workman Township, Aitkin County. To sign the guestbook online, go to: www.srtfuneral.com. Arrangements are with McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service, McGregor.

Clyde Manuel Wind,

Clyde Manuel Wind, age 71, of Brainerd, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2021, in Duluth at St Mary's Hospital. Clyde was born in Fifty Lakes to Sonny & Dorothy (Sam) Wind on February 18, 1950. He served his country in the US Air Force. On May 11, 1979, Clyde married the love of his life, Donna Jean Stefan.



Clyde was a true jokester at heart. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandkids. He really enjoyed spending quality time at the "Prop" with his family. Clyde often acted as Grandpa's Taxi, getting his beloved grandchildren to their activities.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 42 years, Jean; sons: Virgil (Nicole Anderson) Wind, Bobby Wind, Corey (Marie) Wind and Cameron (Lori) Wind; siblings: Larry Wind, Joyce (Ray) Trudell and Eloise Wind; grandchildren: Dionne, Keenan, Josh, Jakob, Emma, Shaina, Rachel, Gracie, Abigail, Khaleesi, Alex, Novalee, Mitchell, Cooper, Philip, Breezy, Darryl and Faith.

Clyde is preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Virgil, Dale and Duane.

Funeral service for Clyde was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 11am at Faith Baptist Church. Visitation was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, from 4-7PM at Halvorson Taylor Life Events Center, and one hour prior to the service, Wednesday at the church. Interment will be at Dykeman Cemetery.

This page is offered as a service to those families who would like to share the news of their loved ones' passing. Please submit memorials for Mekweniminjig to news@millelacsband.com. Photos are accepted but not required. Because this is a new feature in the Inaajimowin, we are accepting tributes for Band members who have passed away beginning January 1, 2021.

Monroe John Skinaway, III (Waawaasese Binesii)

Monroe John Skinaway, III (Waawaasese Binesii), 42 of McGregor died Thursday, July 1, 2021 at Aitkin Health Services in Aitkin. He was born May 15, 1979 in Aitkin to Clifford Monroe and Gloria Jean (Sayers) Skinaway, Sr. He worked at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs for over 23 years, most recently as a Slot Services Supervisor. Monroe was kind to everyone he met. He was very good at trivia games like Jeopardy. He enjoyed working on cars, listening to music "Oldies" like the Beach Boys, and working alongside his co-workers. He would practice playing video games on the X Box so he would be able to keep up with his 2 sons when they would play together. Monroe loved his boys very much.



He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Gloria Skinaway, sister Emma Skinaway, and his niece Everleigh Fineday.

Monroe is survived by his 2 sons: Kenneth John Skinaway and Tyler Gene Skinaway both of Crosby; 5 sisters: Sandra Skinaway of Duluth, Lorene Skinaway of Bemidji, Elizabeth (Chris) Skinaway of McGregor, Jean Skinaway-Lawrence of Bemidji, and Julie (Orlando) Skinaway of McGregor; 2 brothers: Clifford Skinaway, Jr. of McGregor and Ken (Vanessa) Skinaway of Cloquet; His special brother Phil (Darcy) Sayers, Sr. of Red Lake, 1 uncle Aaron Sayers of Red Lake, 2 aunts: Lorraine Sayers of Red Lake and Linda (Skinaway) of Detroit Lakes. Many special cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation was at dusk on Monday, July 5, 2021 at the East Lake Community Center, East Lake near McGregor. Tribal Rites Ceremony was at 10 am Tuesday, July 6, 2021

at the East Lake Community Center. Burial was in the Big Sandy Lake Burial Grounds, McGregor. Arrangements are with McGregor Funeral Home & Cremation Services in McGregor. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.



HISTORY

WIIDIGENDIWIN - TRADITIONAL OJIBWE MARRIAGE; A WEDDING

By DIBIKWE – Valerie Harrington

Wiidigendiwin is a marriage or a wedding in Ojibwe. A wedding is a ceremony where two people are united in marriage. Marriage ceremonies are common across cultures for multiple reasons. First, marriage is an important emotional and social transition for the bride and groom, and participation of family and friends in the process can be a major source of emotional support. Second, marriage usually marks a dramatic change in social status for individual newlyweds.

There are many Ojibwe customs and cultural ways of performing a marriage that I learned from watching YouTube videos and reading many articles and papers. There are big drum marriage ceremonies that included songs specific for Mide ceremonies where the man and woman would be on opposite ends of a dance arena and dance toward each other. The one I recently learned about was an Ojibwe tradition long ago included that when an Ojibwe man decides that he really loves a woman and would like to take her hand in marriage, he must hunt and kill an animal then bring it to the family of the woman he is trying to pursue. This gesture acts as a symbolic offering to show the woman's family he can provide for a family of his own. There are many traditions long ago based on economic stability and whether the man could provide for the family and the decision lied in the hands of the woman's family. Once decided the family would then decide where the ceremony would take place based on the location of the man's tribe and the woman's tribe. Long ago you were not meant to marry in your own tribe, so they would have to decide which tribe the couple would join. It would be based on climate. A man would be ready to marry after he has his first vision quest and a woman would be ready after her first moon cycle.

Before the wedding, the couple would select four sponsors that had to be elders. These sponsors would commit to helping the couple throughout their marriage with advice, counsel and wisdom. During the morning of the wedding the bride would bathe in the lake or river which is symbolic of a mother earth blessing. The wedding ceremony would last three days with each day representing either feasting, visiting, and giveaway. Feasting would include preparing of traditional foods blessed and spoken for by the elder sponsors. All the food had to be eaten or given to the elder sponsors. Visiting included the couple visiting with each side of the family to receive blessings from both sides. The giveaway is where the bride is given away to the groom and the newlywed couple would join the tribe they selected. The ceremony would take place typically below an arbor or arch.

For women traditional wedding attire included a white dress and white moccasins made from deer or elk skins and would be designed/created by the bride herself. For men, attire included black pants, a ribbon shirt and moccasins. The bride and groom will make or buy lots of gifts, as a gift must be given to each wedding guest at the final giveaway ceremony. The officiant of the wedding is called a pipe carrier. He allows the couple to each make a declaration of love. The couple take seven clockwise steps together, saying a vow with each step. The pipe carrier will then light a pipe of tobacco for the couple to smoke, sending their love to the creator and officiating the marriage. The couple will then each take up a blue blanket, representing their old lives, and be followed by their relatives to the fire circle. The fire circle is prepared with seven different types of wood burning into one single fire representing the unification of the couple and their families. The couple will toss the blue blankets into the circle of fire while their relatives shroud a single white blanket upon them. This blanket represents their new lives together; love; happiness; fulfillment and peace. In



Photo Credit to Minnesota Historical Society Collections.

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum has several artifact pieces regarding traditional weddings. Above is a pair of white leather Ojibwe women's moccasins. Each has a white velvet vamp with spot-beaded floral designs and a white satin interior. There are lace ties at the top. RIGHT: A white velvet wedding cape decorated with lace and a spot-beaded floral designs along the neckline, with fringe along the bottom. Made by Cheryl Minnema and her mother Millie Benjamin, both of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota, for Cheryl's wedding in 1999.



a marriage, the man's major role is to provide a good livelihood for his new family. Rarely is love a key issue of the marriage, instead it is a relationship of survival and maintenance of life. The woman's life will now be mainly focused on the care of her family and the majority of her life will exist within the home's private sphere. Divorce is fairly uncommon in Ojibwe culture and was not permitted until the late 1450's. Divorce was permitted only for the man cheating or being disloyal to the woman in some way.

"OJIBWE TRADITION LONG AGO INCLUDED THAT WHEN A MAN DECIDES HE REALLY LOVES A WOMAN AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE HER HAND IN MARRIAGE, HE MUST HUNT AND KILL AN ANIMAL AND BRING IT TO THE FAMILY OF THE WOMAN HE IS TRYING TO PURSUE."

— DIBIKWE – Valerie Harrington

Modern influences have rendered a culture of male dominance and female inferiority which in some cases have diminished the complimentary relationship lifestyle. Modern times have also brought forth more recognition to individual achievement rather than team effort, giving the women more desire to move on to the public themselves. More modern influences have also come to diminish the concept of particular sex-roles, forcing women to adapt to new roles in society. While the women's main interest still seems to resonate within the family, they have found other ways to carry on their family duties while maintaining a more public life, such as having a career. Another factor was when the government plagued our Tribes and forced our people to reservations, burrowing our population. Many tribes were mixed together. Population decrease and joint tribes has resulted into many tribes now allowing inter-tribal/inter-reservation marriage. Putting these new factors in place has destroyed some Indigenous people's concept of marriage. As women no longer have to rely on a male counterpart for stability and can instead be a provider of their own, marriage seems to be viewed as more of an optional

life choice instead.

With some of these past customs and traditions diminished yet also valued an Ojibwe Wiidigendiwin, still takes place today. I am honored and blessed to have been a part of my first Wiidigendiwin. It was an honor to be married by the Pipe Carrier/Spiritual Advisor Nazhike, who learned the ceremony from Dr. Anton Treuer. Although my husband didn't have to bring an animal from a hunt we did as much preparation for the ceremony as we could. Modern influence allowed us to do things together and make wedding plans together. Thankfully you can marry from the same tribe today. We both honor our roles equally as man and woman. We honored the traditions of the wiidigendiwin.

We were honored to be married by Nazhike. He spoke ojibwe and translated each part for us. Even though I couldn't understand entirely what he was speaking in Ojibwe, I could still feel strong emotions. This was the happiest and most exciting day ever. The first part of the ceremony he was speaking for our spirits and we fed each other. We also had an amazing opportunity to say loving words to each other which

Nazhike translated for us to the spirits. What hit me most is the speaking for our spirits and adjoining of our spirits to be recognized together. Nazhike asked the Creator and the spirits to give us support, watch over us, and have a long happy healthy life together. When the blanket was wrapped around us and the smoking of the pipe and feeding each other was done, rings were exchanged (modern influence), and the final translation was complete I could not stop crying and smiling. My spirit was happy. There were no nerves, only excitement and love surrounded by our family and friends. We were even blessed enough to have a spirit dish setting for our loved ones that have passed on and we wanted to honor them and remember them on our special day. I am very grateful for the elders that have kept our language and ceremonies alive for us. It is an honor to be married to my best friend by the pipe carrier, our brother, Nazhike and to have the support of our family, friends, and the Creator. Miigwech to all who supported our Wiidigendiwin and continue to support us. Miigwech Miskwaankwad Gaagige Igo giga-zaagi'in.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

NOVEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Cherie Jean Ambrose
 Floyd Monroe Ballinger
 Clifford Wayne Benjamin
 Franklin James Benjamin
 Irene Bernice Benjamin
 Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
 William Boyd
 Kimberly Sue Brock
 Deanna Marie Bullchild
 Donna Lisa Bullchild
 Alice Elizabeth Carter
 Mary Maxine Conklin
 Mary Ann Curfman
 Richard Thomas Dakota
 Michael Roger Dorr
 Douglas Duane Dunkley
 Donald Ross Eubanks
 Thomas Rodney Evans
 Terrance Wayne Feltmann
 Roge Grangerr
 Carol Holmes
 Eileen Marjorie Johnson

Michael Anthony Juarez
 Bridgette Marie Kilpela
 Christopher James Kuntz
 George Virgil LaFave
 Barbara Ellen Lobejko
 Sidney Ray Lucas
 Darlene Doris Meyer
 Mary Ellen Meyer
 Marie Linda Nahorniak
 Judith Marie Nickaboine
 Paul Benjamin Nickaboine
 Bernadette Norton
 Nickena Marie Peet
 Elizabeth Anne Peterson
 Dale William Roy
 Rhonda Lee Sam
 Karen Renee Sampson
 Mary Ann Shedd
 Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
 Ronald Eugene Smith
 Maria Ellena Spears
 Nora Grace St. John
 David Le Roy Staples
 Donald Gerard Thomas
 John Henry Thomas

Jerry Lee Torgerud
 Joyce Laverne Trudell
 Shawn Henry Wellner
 Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
 Sylvia Jane Wise
 Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

SHOUT OUT AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Valerie & Daniel Wind on their Wiidigendiwin! Love, all your family!"

BELATED BIRTHDAY

"Happy birthday to the most amazing woman in the world, Melissa Benjamin! I don't know what I would do without you baby, I love you with all my heart! Love Jake!"

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to news@millelacsband.com or **320-630-8195**. The deadline for the December issue is November 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-630-8195 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members.

Don't worry — we will not share your email or overwhelm you with emails. This will be used for weekly news summaries and important updates that need to be shared immediately.

Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

Send your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com!

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Please refer to the following list to find answers to your questions or to reach the individuals or departments you need.

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Administration: Peter Nayquonabe: 218-670-0745; Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Tim Jackson: 320-362-4245

Health and Human Services: Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Stephanie Dunkley: 320-385-0067

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director: 320-532-7536 (work); 320-630-8702 (cell); 320-532-7506 (fax)

Band Assembly Inquiries

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly: 320-532-7420; darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

Deanna Sam at 320-279-0178 or 320-532-7498 to make an appointment.

Aanjibimaadizing

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus, Case Manager: 218-316-2437

District II — Winona Crazy Thunder, Case Manager: 320-364-3049

District III — Renee Allen, Case Manager: 320-591-0559

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

Brian Schienost, Public Works Director: 320-630-2624

Tony Pike, Roads/Solid Waste Supervisor: 320-980-5367

Sean Racelo, Waste Water Supervisor: 218-838-8391

Mike Moilanen, Director of Planning: 320-630-2623

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

Mental Health appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

Emergency Services: 320-532-1755 or 320-532-1756. After hours: 320-630-2432 or 320-362-4672

Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Email address updates to: kathy.heyer@millelacsband.com or call Danni Jo Harkness: 320-532-7592

NOTE: The Office of Management and Budget will continue to provide essential services with further increased efforts toward a virtual and paperless environment.



Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Justice Services

Missing & Murdered Unit

Email OJS_MMU@BIA.GOV

Call **1-833-560-2065**

Confidential | Toll-Free | 24/7

Text Keyword **BIAMMU**
and location to **847411**

Call, text, or email tips or referrals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Missing and Murdered Unit to help with any information concerning a missing Indigenous person or homicides in Indian Country.

YOU CAN HELP.



Missing and Murdered Unit

<https://www.bia.gov/office-of-justice-services/missing-murdered-unit>

OPERATION LADY JUSTICE

<https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/>

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>Community COVID-19 testing</p> <p>DIII Aazhoomog Clinic 10 a.m. to noon and DIII Meshakwad Community Center 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Community COVID-19 testing</p> <p>DI Ne la Shing Clinic from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Batters Intervention Program, HHS Wednesdays @ 10am. Contact: Desiree @ 320-532-8909</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Sheldon & Joe Jr., Ceremonial Dance, Mille Lacs</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sheldon & Joe Jr., Ceremonial Dance, Mille Lacs</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>9</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP <i>see page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Batters Intervention Program, HHS Wednesdays @ 10am. Contact: Desiree @ 320-532-8909</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Warrior Day Government Offices Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Darrell & Skip, Ceremonial Dance, Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>Darrell & Skip, Ceremonial Dance, Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Pet Wellness Clinic DI - Community Center</p> <p>All surgery spots have been filled for the upcoming pet wellness clinic in District I. There is now a waiting list.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Pet Wellness Clinic DI - Community Center</p> <p>Wellness check-ups are also available Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a first-come-first-served basis.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Third Wednesday: District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Batters Intervention Program, HHS Wednesdays @ 10am. Contact: Desiree @ 320-532-8909</p>	<p>18</p> <p>District II and IIa Community meetings 5:30 p.m. feasts at each site.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lee & Mike, Ceremonial Dance, Lake Lena</p> <p>Pet Wellness Clinic Urban area, All Nations Church</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Lee & Mike, Ceremonial Dance, Lake Lena</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Noon Closing Government Offices Closed at noon</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Miigwech Day Government Offices Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Tim & Tom, Ceremonial Dance, East Lake</p> <p>Miigwech Day Government Offices Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Tim & Tom, Ceremonial Dance, East Lake</p>

RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM

Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.



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T H E S T O R Y A S I T ' S T O L D



UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments (320-532-7730) and OMB. You can download a Change of Address form at millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments.

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The December issue deadline is November 15.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

Tribal Police Department dispatch:
888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

Emergency Management Services:
24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

Addiction/Behavioral Health: 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

Community Support Services: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems: If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative at one of the following on-call numbers:

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

Mille Lacs Band Family Services: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588; Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.

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